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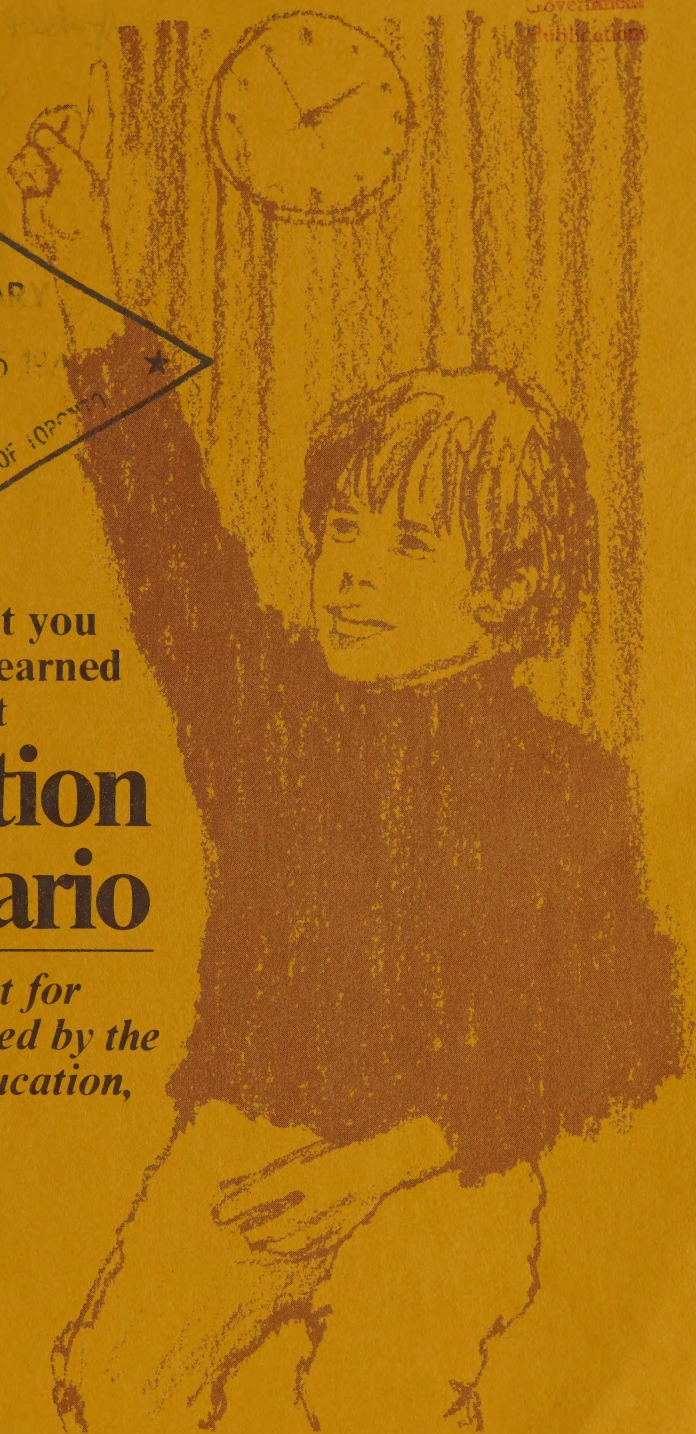
Government
Publication



Some facts that you
may not have learned
in school about

Education in Ontario

*A special report for
students prepared by the
Ministry of Education,
Ontario*



Education is for students

... which is why it is important that you, the student, should know something about how your province's education system works. The Ministry of Education, Ontario, has prepared this pamphlet especially for students—to supply information about itself and its relationship to schools.

What is the Ministry of Education?

It's that branch of our provincial government whose basic purpose is to ensure that all Ontario students have a good and equal opportunity to learn.

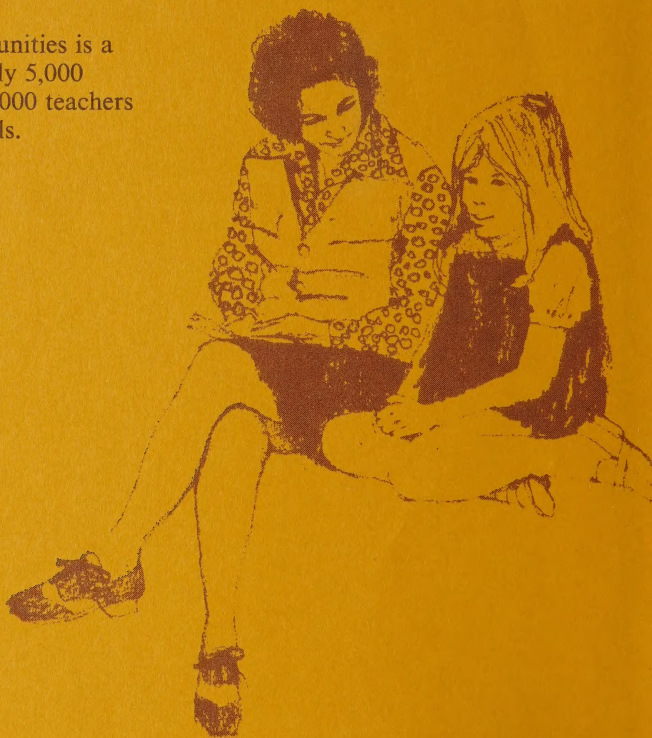
We at the Ministry care very much about what and how you, the student, are taught, as well as about the qualifications of those who teach you. We are concerned with setting, maintaining, and upgrading the educational standards that will make it possible for you to get the most out of school.

Our responsibility to communities is a large one: Ontario has nearly 5,000 schools, in which some 100,000 teachers teach over two million pupils.

How does the Ministry work with schools?

People employed by the Ministry stay in close touch with local school boards. There are nine regional offices of the Ministry located throughout the province, all well informed about what is happening in their areas and able to supply direct assistance and advice to deal with problems as they arise. Fully twenty per cent of the Ministry's staff are engaged in working directly with key education people in the nine regions.

Local boards, guided by elected trustees, are responsible for the day-to-day operation of their schools, within policies worked out by the Ministry. They hire all necessary staff such as teachers, caretakers, bus drivers, and various specialists. The boards also create their own policies on matters that apply to their specific areas.

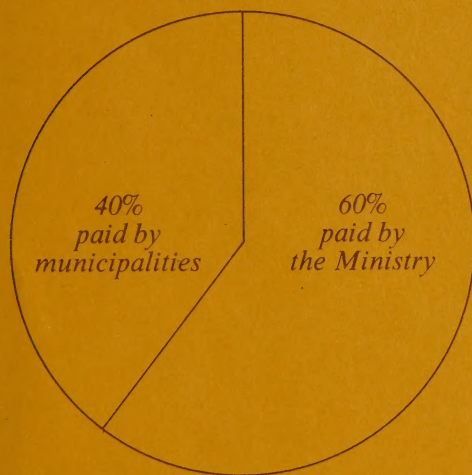


Although the Ministry of Education has certain powers of authority relating to Ontario elementary and secondary schools, these are powers that we endeavour to apply in a co-operative manner. We consider it important that our minds stay open to new educational ideas and that our efforts be directed to helping schools such as yours put them into effect.

The Ministry's lines of communication are lively two-way channels through which we listen and respond to individuals and groups, including students like yourself, your parents, and your teachers. This ongoing communication helps the Ministry to make balanced decisions which are in keeping with current requirements and trends.

Many of these decisions are, of course, about financial matters. The Ministry makes extensive money grants (currently over 1¼ billion dollars annually) to assist the work of school boards. These grants, which vary in size according to local needs, cover some sixty per cent of the total cost of elementary and secondary school education in the province.

Ontario Education Costs



What do Ministry people do?

Specialists from the Ministry are constantly at work assisting your teachers to change, expand, and update courses, making what you are taught more valid for today's world.

Not all of the things we do, however, are concerned with bringing about change. Ministry officials continue to stress the teaching of English and Canadian studies in order to enable young people to communicate better and to understand the true nature of their country's culture.



About a third of the Ministry's staff are directly involved in the operation of Ontario's special schools for deaf and blind children located in London, Brantford, Milton, and Belleville. Others operate four teacher's colleges which prepare young people for entering the teaching profession. A considerable number of Ministry people are engaged in teaching mentally retarded youngsters in our Ontario hospitals.

Some of the other tasks carried out by Ministry staff include looking after students who are unable to attend regular school by making correspondence courses available to them, and providing special programs for those who have left school but wish to return to their studies.

As a branch of government, we in the Ministry are civil servants ultimately responsible to the people of Ontario through the provincial parliament where our policies, programs, and budgets are debated openly in the democratic process of government.

The chief executive officer of the Ministry is an elected member of the provincial parliament whose cabinet position is that of Minister of Education. He attends weekly meetings with other ministers, where the overall policies of government are discussed and formed.

The Minister of Education is aided in his executive duties by a Parliamentary Assistant, a Deputy Minister, and three Assistant Deputy Ministers. They work with personnel at government headquarters in Queen's Park, Toronto, and the officials in the nine regional offices at the task of putting educational policies into force across the province.

We would like to hear from you.

Now that you know a little bit more about us, we at the Ministry would like to continue to stay in touch with you, the student. Having some idea of your feelings (both good and bad) about the kind of education you are now receiving will help us to do our job better. Please feel free to write. Your questions and remarks are welcome at any time.

Address your letters to:

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Hon. Thomas L. Wells
Minister of Education